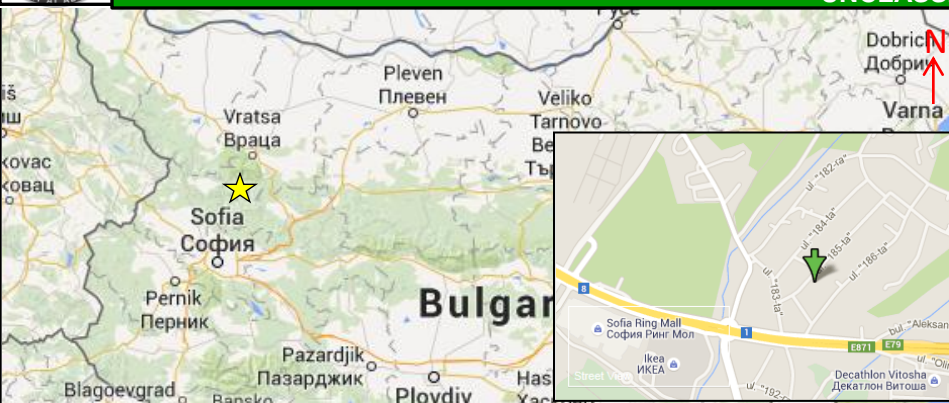




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WHO: Civil Affairs Team (CAT) 8012, A Co., 80th Civil Affairs, 2/2 CR Soldiers, Media Affairs Office, Embassy of the United States Sofia, Bulgaria.

WHAT: Community Engagement with Smile Bulgaria Foundation, (SBF) Mrs. Christina Stoimenova

WHEN: 061000JUNE2015

WHERE: Ulitsa 185 12 1756 Sofia, Sofia Bulgaria

WHY: Conduct civil affairs operations (CAO) nested within the 2/2 CR SCO's intent of community engagement, civil reconnaissance, civil information management, and to support the Embassy of the United States Sofia, Bulgaria's objectives.

SIGNIFICANCE:

USAREUR LOE 2.1 – Professional Relationships with NATO, Allies and Partners Consistently Strong: CAT 8012 conducted a follow up community engagement with Mrs. Christina Stoimenova of the Smile Bulgaria Foundation. During our previous visit CAT 8012 identified some ways to help facilitate the efforts put forth by the SBF. Mrs. Stoimenova stated she attempted to obtain a play set for the children but simply did not have the funding available. Following our first engagement, CAT 8012 explained the foundations situation to 2/2 CR Executive Officer Major Anthony Keller. The foundation's mission resonated with MAJ Keller due him growing up in a similar situation. MAJ Keller donated the necessary funding to facilitate CAT 8012's ability purchase and erect a backyard play set for the SBF. Included in our engagement were soldiers from 2/2 CR and Mrs. Aneta Stefanova, Media Affairs for the US Embassy Sophia. Mrs. Stoimenova and the children were very appreciate for group's generosity and efforts. This engagement further supported USAREUR's goal of developing relationships within the community we serve and contribute to a allied nation foundation that is striving to normalize the family based home for children lacking parental care.



(U) CAT 8012 plays with children on a newly donated play set by 2/2 CR. Children are homed by the Smile Bulgaria Foundation a NGO in Sofia Bulgaria.



(U) Kamelia (left) and Vasco (right) children at the Smile Bulgaria Foundation help with construction of their newly donated play set by 2/2 CR's Executive Officer MAJ Keller.

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